REMARKS

Claims 1 – 20 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 – 20 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 14, 18 and 19 are amended, and Claims 10 -13 are cancelled. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 9 and 14 – 20 are at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 19-20

Claims 1-13 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boltz et al. ("Boltz") (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,731). Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13 are amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been the basis for this claim rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing system. The information processing system comprises a first information processing apparatus, a second information processing apparatus, installed in each of a plurality of areas, for authenticating the first information processing apparatus in a predetermined area of the plurality of areas; and a third information processing apparatus for providing content to the first information processing apparatus. The first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus, and the third information processing apparatus being interconnected via a network. The first information processing apparatus sends authentication information for authenticating a user, *the authentication information is based on authentication screen information received from the third information processing apparatus,* and predetermined area information to the third information processing apparatus via the network. The third information processing apparatus *sends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus, determines whether the authentication information received from first information processing apparatus satisfies a predetermined input format, and based on a satisfactory determination* selects the second information processing apparatus corresponding to the predetermined area information obtained from the first information processing apparatus and sends the authentication information obtained from the first information processing apparatus to the selected second

information processing apparatus via the network, *and based on a non-satisfactory determination resends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus*. The second information processing apparatus authenticates the first information processing apparatus on the basis of the authentication information received from the third information processing apparatus and sends authentication result information for the first information processing apparatus to the third information processing apparatus via the network.

Referring to Applicants' Figure 2 as an illustrative example, Applicants' claimed invention comprises an information processing system. The information processing system comprises a user terminal (first information processing apparatus) 11-1, an authentication server (second information processing apparatus) 3-1, an image service providing server (third information processing apparatus) 2. The first information processing apparatus 11 -1 sends authentication information for authenticating a user, the authentication information is based on authentication screen information received from the third information processing apparatus 2, and predetermined area information to the third information processing apparatus 2 via the network. The third information processing apparatus 2 sends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus 11-1, determines whether the authentication information received from first information processing apparatus 11-1 satisfies a predetermined input format, and based on the satisfactory determination selects the second information processing apparatus 3-1 corresponding to the predetermined area information obtained from the first information processing apparatus 11- 1and sends the authentication information obtained from the first information processing apparatus 11-1 to the selected second information processing apparatus 3-1 via the network, and based on a non-satisfactory determination resends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus 11-1. The second information processing apparatus 3-1 authenticates the first information processing apparatus 11-1on the basis of the authentication information received from the third information processing apparatus 2 and sends authentication result information for the first information processing apparatus 11-1 to the third information processing apparatus 2 via the network 1.

This is clearly unlike Boltz, which fails to teach or suggest that the third information processing apparatus sends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus, determines whether the authentication information received from first information processing apparatus satisfies a predetermined input format, and based on a satisfactory determination selects the second information processing apparatus corresponding to the predetermined area information obtained from the first information processing apparatus and sends the authentication information obtained from the first information processing apparatus to the selected second information processing apparatus via the network, and based on a non-satisfactory determination resends the authentication screen information to the first information processing apparatus.

The Examiner indicates that Boltz teaches that the Mobile Station 20 (first information apparatus) sends a registration message through Base Station 24 (third information apparatus) to that area's MSC/VLR Service Area 12 (second information apparatus) where it registers the requisite information.

However, Boltz states that (emphasis added):

> "With reference to FIG. 1 of the drawings, there is illustrated a Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN), such as cellular network 10, which in turn is composed of a plurality of areas 12, each with a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) 14 and an integrated Visitor Location Register (VLR) 16 therein. The MSC/VLR areas 12, in turn, include a plurality of Location Areas (LA) 18, which is defined as that part of a given MSC/VLR area 12 in which a mobile station (MS) 20 may move freely without having to send update location information to the MSC/VLR area 12 that controls that LA 18. Each Location Area 12 is divided into a number of cells 22. Mobile Station 20 is the physical equipment, e.g., a car phone or other portable phone, used by mobile subscribers to communicate with the cellular network 10. *A Base Station (BS) 24 is the physical equipment, illustrated for simplicity as a radio tower, that provides radio coverage to the geographical area of the cell 22 in which to handle radio traffic to and from the MS 20.*'

See Column 2, lines 45 – 62. Thus, Base Station 24 is situated within the cell 22, which in turn is situated within the Location Area (LA) 18 which is controlled by the MSC/VLR Service Area 12. Further, Base Station 24 is configured to provide radio (communication) coverage to the area of the cell 22 in which to handle communication traffic to and from the MS 20. As such, Base Station 24 is geographically and communicatively associated with only one MSC/VLR Service Area 12.

Therefore, the Base Station 24 does not sent authentication screen information, and does not determine whether the authentication information received from the Mobile Station 20 satisfies a predetermined input format. Further, the Base Station 24 does not select the MSC/VLR Service Area 12 and the predetermined area information obtained from the Mobile Station 20 based on a satisfactory determination of the authentication information. In addition, the Base Station 24 does not subsequently send the authentication information obtained from the Mobile Station 20 to the selected second information processing apparatus via the network. Moreover, the Base Station 24 does not resend the authentication screen information to the Mobile Station 20 based on a non-satisfactory determination.

Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over Boltz, as are dependent Claims 2 – 4, for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claims 5, 9 and 19, which have been amended to recite the same distinguishable limitation as that of Claim 1, are also patentable over Boltz, as are their corresponding dependent claims, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

II.   35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims 14-18

Claims 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi et al. ("Higuchi") (U.S. Publication No. 2003-0050050). Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Claims 14 and 18 are amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been the basis for this claim rejection.

Claim 14 is directed to an information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus comprises a memory area control unit for controlling the creation of a memory area corresponding to first another information processing apparatus *connected to the information processing apparatus via a network, the memory area being* accessed via the network, a storage unit for receiving a content ID from the first another information processing apparatus and

storing the content ID into the memory area whose creation has been controlled by the memory area control unit, *an authentication unit for authenticating the first another information processing apparatus based on the content ID entered in a predetermined input format based on an authentication screen information,* an issuing unit for issuing a memory area ID of the memory area in which the content ID is stored and authentication permission information indicative of the authentication of the first another information processing apparatus, a selecting unit for selecting second another information processing apparatus corresponding to the first another information processing apparatus on the basis of area information of the first another information processing apparatus, and a sending unit for sending, via the network, *the authentication screen information to the first another information processing apparatus and_*the memory area ID and the authentication permission information issued by the issuing unit to the first another information processing apparatus along with URL information of the second another information processing apparatus selected by the selecting unit step *in the case of a satisfactory authentication permission information, and for resending in the case of a non-satisfactory authentication permission information the authentication screen information to the first another information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus, the first another information processing apparatus, and the second another information processing apparatus are interconnected via the network.*

That is, the information processing apparatus 2 comprises a memory area control unit 23 for controlling the creation of a memory area corresponding to first another information processing apparatus 11-1 accessed via a network 1, with the information processing apparatus 2 and the first another information processing apparatus 11-1 being distinct and interconnected via the network 1. Moreover, the second another information processing apparatus 3-1 is also interconnected via the network 1 to the information processing apparatus 2 and the first another information processing apparatus 11-1.

However, Higuchi fails to teach or suggest that the information processing apparatus comprises a memory area control unit for controlling the creation of a memory area corresponding to first another information processing apparatus connected to the information

processing apparatus via a network, with the memory area being accessed via the network interconnected to the memory area via the network, and that the second another information processing apparatus is also interconnected via the same network to the information processing apparatus and the first another information processing apparatus.

In Higuchi, the cellular phone (information processing apparatus) 12 includes a reproducer circuit 46 and an interface 56. The interface 56 is connected with a memory card (memory area) (first another information processing apparatus) 58 that is detachably attached to the information processing apparatus 12. As such, contrary to the Examiner assertion, the memory area 58 and the information processing apparatus 12 are not interconnected to one another via the network. See Paragraphs [0053] – [0059].

Thus, Claim 14 is patentable over Higuchi, as are dependent Claims 15 – 17, for at least the same reasons.

Claim 18, which recites the same distinguishable limitation as that of Claim 14, is also patentable over Higuchi.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.
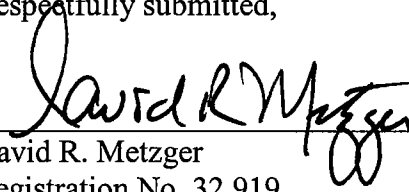
III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1 – 9 and 14 – 20 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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